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Student Affairs

By **KATHERINE MARCHESKI**
Photos **DAVID DERONG**

Lucy is your average college student. She goes to class, studies, works, and hangs with friends. She enjoys being active at her university with events and clubs, and making the most of her college experience. However, she also has had some experiences that are not so average.

Lucy, a former Iowa State student, was romantically involved with a professor. Things started off normal, but took a turn down a road that most students never encounter.

It all started when her professor asked her to grab lunch one day after class. "I thought it was just chill, and I had heard of other students doing it too," Lucy says. "I know of friends who had teachers who were social with their students and would go to the bars and stuff, so I thought it was no big deal."

The attention from her professor began when she started doing poorly in class. Lucy had taken a similar class before, and slacked off because she knew the material already. But by not turning in her assignments, her grade started suffering.

"I always screwed around in class, and then during the midterm everyone kept getting one question on the test wrong, and when I turned mine in, he asked me if I had got it right, and I said I didn't know. He asked me if I would go out to pizza with him to talk about it, and I thought it was fine."

After the final exam he went out for drinks with her and her friends. "We were really drunk and he was telling me about his college days. I was joking around, saying how I really wanted to get rich quick and was thinking about making some dorm porn." He told her that he tried something similar in college, that he really wanted to make a porno and that he used to have all the equipment.

"It started to get really weird between us, he would always suggest things. But he changed my grade from a C to an A and said as long as we would make a porno together, along with some other weird requests; my grade would stay that way. So I said okay, [not really meaning it]," Lucy says.

The new semester started and the professor continued contacting her, convincing her to keep up her end of the bargain. She kept ignoring him because she wasn't serious about actually making a porno, and he started freaking her out.

"For one of my classes second semester at midterm he was the person proctoring one of my tests, and when I turned it in he said we needed to have a conversation, but was very vague since there were obviously a lot of people around," Lucy says.

"It was just weird, like he would want to trade stuff for favors, or in exchange for the midterm. He wanted to make the porno, and then he said he would give me the midterm if I would go on a date with his male friend who was another student. He wanted students to do favors for him."

Many people might be wondering how students get themselves in these situations, or better yet, what happens when a student finds themselves in a situation like this? Kipp Van Dyke, program coordinator at the Dean of Students Office, says it's the faculty member's job to know better.

"The student is always protected in situations like these. We want students to feel safe and comfortable, and if there is a faculty or staff member that is corrupting that atmosphere, then we always want [them] to report," says Van Dyke.

In the Iowa State University faculty handbook section 7.2.2.1.1 entitled Consenting Relationships states, "Consenting relationships

that are of concern to Iowa State University are those intimate relationships to which both parties have consented, but where a reporting or evaluative relationship exists between the parties ... it is the responsibility of each faculty member to take appropriate actions to avoid any conflict or apparent conflict of interest."

Kipp Van Dyke says, "What this means is that as long as the faculty member is not involved with a current student, then it is not technically against any rules, however ethics do come into play."

"It's more like legal aspects versus ethical issues. Even if it is not your current student, or advisee, you still have to ask yourself if it's a good idea. Will other students see this as preferential treatment and will that cause other issues? We expect faculty members to think these things through," says Van Dyke.

Van Dyke says students should always report if they ever feel harassed or coerced. "It's important for students to know it's not always the way you see it in the movies, it's usually never like that. Sometimes situations arise, and when that happens we want to take care of them."

Lucy says her intent with the professor was to try it out, but if she knew that it would end up the way it did, she would have stayed away. "It was way more than just a student/teacher relationship, it kind of became like a business relationship. He had all the power, and I felt manipulated. I didn't know the rules about it all, and I didn't want to risk myself getting kicked out. The point of no return was when the grade was switched; after that there was no ending it or going back."

Lucy's advice to other students is to just not get involved. "No matter what a great guy they can be, you will always be in the bottom position, with the power over you."